

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Beresford

23 December 1955

25X1A9a

Proposed request to State for additional security notation on  
EXCON materials containing [REDACTED]

25X1C

In connection with Mr. Connolly's clearance on 12 December of the  
draft messages re classification of "Confidential" for EXCON messages (with  
certain exceptions), he stated that it was his intention to request  
State to add the following on all despatches or telegrams containing  
information: [REDACTED]

"FOR BACKGROUND USE ONLY"  
"NOFORN"

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This will insure checking with Washington if [REDACTED] is to be used.

Connolly also said he will soon have procedures set up for rapid priority  
dissemination to Washington of [REDACTED]

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State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chiefs E/ST and E/C, ORR

FROM: Acting Executive Secretary, EDIC

SUBJECT: Approval of draft circular instruction and outgoing airgram to USRO/ST regarding classification of CG/COCOM/CHINCOM Documents.

1. The attached drafts of outgoing messages have been received from State/ECD. The messages propose a general rule of "confidential" as the classification for the following types of documents:

COCOM Documents  
EDAC Documents  
ACEP Documents  
EXCON Messages  
"Old" International Lists (the revised lists are confidential)  
China Special List

2. A large proportion of COCOM documents have already been downgraded to "Confidential" with CIA concurrence. These have been found by review to contain no classified intelligence information.

3. Because of stricter regulations set up in 1954 concerning the handling and transmission of Secret material, the State Department considers that there is an operational need in their foreign service posts for use of a classification of "Confidential" (or lower) whenever possible.

4. A copy of POLTO A-307 is attached for your convenience. The final sentence of [REDACTED] also referred to in the draft messages, states: "There will then be a presumption that all EXCON messages meriting classification will be 'Confidential' rather than 'Secret', subject to exceptional cases where higher classification is warranted".

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5. Your comments or concurrence in the attached drafts is requested. It is further requested that you check with any CIA source office which you believe would be interested in the problem of classification of EXCON communications.

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**Attachments:**

1. Draft Message to USRO/ST, Paris
2. Draft Circular Instruction
3. POLTO A-307, 10 Nov. 1955

**Distribution:**

- cc: 1 - Ch/G/HR  
1 - Ch/PS/OS  
2 - Acting Ch/E/ST  
2 - Acting Ch/E/C  
2 - EDIC Secretariat  
1 - Mr. Beresford

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D/E/HR: [REDACTED] gfg (7 Dec. 1955)